

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

---

1. (withdrawn) A catheterization apparatus for transseptal delivery of a device, comprising:

a sheath for traversing a septum and establishing a transseptal conduit for passage of said device across said septum;

securement means disposed on said sheath for restraining movement of said sheath relative to said traversed septum; and

a shaft for transporting said device through said sheath across said septum.

2. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheath comprises a flexible tube.

3. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said securement means comprises a reversibly expandable structure.

4. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said reversibly expandable structure when expanded engages surface portions of said traversed septum.

5. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said expandable structure comprises an inflatable structure.

6. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said sheath further comprises lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable structure.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said inflatable structure is made from an elastic membrane.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said inflatable structure has an inflated diameter that is several times larger than the diameter of said sheath.

9. (withdrawn) A method for establishing a transseptal conduit for device delivery during a catheterization procedure, comprising:

providing a catheterization apparatus comprising:

a sheath for traversing a septum wherein said sheath comprises lumen for movement of a device therethrough; and

securement means disposed on said sheath for restraining movement of said sheath relative to said traversed septum;

puncturing and dilating said septum;

advancing said sheath through said punctured septum to move said securement means across said septum; and

deploying said securement means to engage surface portions of said septum and thereby restrain further movement of said sheath.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing said sheath in the form of a flexible tube.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing said securement means having a reversibly expandable structure.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein said providing said securement means having a reversibly expandable structure further comprises providing a structure which when expanded engages surface portions of said traversed septum.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein said providing said securement means having a reversibly expandable structure further comprises providing an inflatable structure.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein providing said sheath further comprises providing a sheath having lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable structure.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein providing said inflatable structure further comprises providing an inflatable structure made from an elastic membrane.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein providing said inflatable structure further comprises

providing an inflatable structure having an inflated diameter that is several times larger than the diameter of said sheath.

17. (withdrawn) A catheterization apparatus for implanting a device in an atrium's appendage, comprising:

a tube assembly for providing a passage way for movement of said device through the body's vasculature and said atrium to said appendage, said assembly comprising at least an outer tube;

a shaft for transporting said device through said assembly; and

a positioning guide for engaging atrial wall portions for mechanical support of portions of said tube assembly within said atrium.

18. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said positioning guide is disposed on a positioning tube that retractably extends through said outer tube.

19. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said positioning guide comprises a reversibly expandable structure.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said reversibly expandable structure comprises at least a preformed wire configuration.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said reversibly expandable structure comprises an inflatable balloon.

22. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tube assembly further comprises lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable structure.

23. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said tube assembly further comprises a delivery tube for advancing said positioning guide through said tube assembly to a location proximate to said appendage, wherein said delivery tube retractably extends through said outer tube.

24. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said tube assembly further comprises a positioning tube that retractably extends through said delivery tube wherein said

positioning guide is disposed on an end of said positioning tube.

25. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a securement means disposed on an end of said outer tube wherein said securement means engages surface portions of a septum traversed by said outer tube to restrain further movement of said outer tube.

26. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said securement means comprises a reversibly expendable structure.

27. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said expandable structure is an inflatable structure made from an elastic membrane.

28. (currently amended) A method for implanting a device in an ~~atrium's~~ atrial appendage, said method comprising:

providing a catheterization apparatus comprising:

a tube assembly for providing a ~~passage-way~~ passageway for movement of said device through the body's

vasculature and ~~through said atrium~~ to said atrial appendage,  
said assembly comprising at least an outer tube;

a securement means attached to said outer  
tube;

a shaft for transporting said device through  
said assembly; and

✓  
A1  
a positioning guide for engaging at least a  
portion of an atrial wall ~~portions~~ for mechanical support of  
portions of said ~~sheath~~ tube assembly ~~within said atrium;~~

percutaneously advancing said tube assembly through  
a blood vessel to establish a passageway to ~~said~~ a first  
atrium;

further advancing said tube assembly to traverse a  
septum, said septum separating said first atrium from a  
second atrium, said atrial appendage appended to said second  
atrium;

deploying said securement means in at least one of  
said first and second atria;

securing said outer tube against motion with  
respect to said septum;

introducing said positioning guide to a location  
~~about the~~ near an ostium of said atrial appendage;

deploying said positioning guide to engage said  
portion of an atrial wall ~~portions~~ for mechanical support;  
and

using said shaft to transport said device through  
said passageway to a position within said atrial appendage.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28  
wherein said providing ~~said~~ a catheterization apparatus  
further comprises providing a positioning guide that is  
disposed on a positioning tube that retractably extends  
through said outer tube.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~ 29  
wherein said providing ~~said~~ a positioning guide further  
comprises providing a positioning guide having a reversibly  
expandable structure.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30  
wherein said providing ~~said~~ a positioning guide having a  
reversibly expandable structure comprises providing a  
positioning guide having at least a preformed wire  
configuration.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein said providing a positioning guide having a said reversibly expandable structure comprises providing a positioning guide having an inflatable balloon.

✓  
99  
33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said providing ~~said tube assembly~~ a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing a lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable balloon.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said providing ~~said tube assembly~~ a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing a delivery tube for advancing said positioning guide through said tube assembly to a location proximate to said appendage, and wherein said delivery tube retractably extends through said outer tube.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein said providing ~~said tube assembly~~ a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing a positioning tube that retractably extends through said delivery tube, and wherein said positioning guide is disposed on an end of said positioning tube.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~36~~ 28 wherein said providing ~~said tube assembly~~ a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing a securement means having a reversibly expandable structure.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein said providing ~~said tube assembly~~ a catheterization apparatus further comprises providing a securement means having an inflatable structure made from an elastic membrane.

39. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein said deploying comprises expanding said reversibly expandable structure.

40. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein said deploying comprises inflating said inflatable structure.

---